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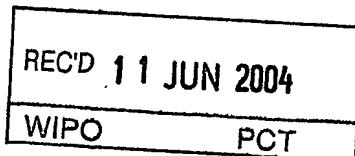
June 08, 2004

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APPLICATION THAT MET THE REQUIREMENTS TO BE GRANTED A
FILING DATE.

APPLICATION NUMBER: 60/474,491

FILING DATE: May 30, 2003

RELATED PCT APPLICATION NUMBER: PCT/US04/12877



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04772 U.S. PTO
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PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT COVER SHEET

This is a request for filing a PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT under 37 CFR 1.53(c).

Express Mail Label No. EV078878105US

100-04779 US PRO
05/30/03

INVENTOR(S)

Given Name (first and middle [if any])	Family Name or Surname	Residence (City and either State or Foreign Country)
Steven M. David James	Kowalski Krysiak	Royal Oak, Michigan Pleasant Ridge, Michigan

Additional inventors are being named on the _____ separately numbered sheets attached hereto

TITLE OF THE INVENTION (500 characters max)

GARMENT HOOK ASSEMBLY

Direct all correspondence to:		CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Customer Number	10291	Customer Number Bar Code		
OR				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Firm or Individual Name	Peter J. Rashid RADER, FISHMAN & GRAUER PLLC			
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Country	US	Telephone	(248) 594-0600	Fax (248) 594-0610
ENCLOSED APPLICATION PARTS (check all that apply)				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Specification Number of Pages	6	<input type="checkbox"/> CD(s), Number		
<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) Number of Sheets	1	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Application Data Sheet. See 37 CFR 1.76				

METHOD OF PAYMENT OF FILING FEES FOR THIS PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT				
<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.	FILING FEE AMOUNT (\$)			
<input type="checkbox"/> A check or money order is enclosed to cover the filing fees.				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Director is hereby authorized to charge filing fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account Number:	18-0013	160.00		
<input type="checkbox"/> Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.				

The invention was made by an agency of the United States Government or under a contract with an agency of the United States Government.

No Yes, the name of the U.S. Government agency and the Government contract number are: _____

[Page 1 of 1]

Respectfully submitted,

SIGNATURE

Sonu Nanda

Date May 30, 2003

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Docket Number:

65961-0096

USE ONLY FOR FILING A PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT

Provisional Patent Application Transmittal

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Dated: May 30, 2003

Signature:

Julie A. Barber

(Julie A. Barber)

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FEE TRANSMITTAL for FY 2003

Effective 01/01/2003, Patent fees are subject to annual revision.

Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27

TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT **(\$)** **160.00**

Complete if Known

Application Number	Not Yet Assigned
Filing Date	Concurrently Herewith
First Named Inventor	Steven M. Kowalski
Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Art Unit	N/A
Attorney Docket No.	65961-0096

METHOD OF PAYMENT (check all that apply)

Check Credit Card Money Order Other None

Deposit Account

Deposit Account Number **18-0013**

Deposit Account Name **Rader, Fishman & Grauer PLLC**

The Director is hereby authorized to: (check all that apply)

Charge fee(s) indicated below Credit any overpayments

Charge any additional fee(s) during the pendency of this application

Charge fee(s) indicated below, except for the filing fee to the above-identified deposit account.

FEE CALCULATION**1. BASIC FILING FEE**

Large Entity Small Entity

Fee Code	Fee (\$)	Fee Code	Fee (\$)	Fee Description	Fee Paid
1001	750	2001	375	Utility filing fee	
1002	330	2002	165	Design filing fee	
1003	520	2003	260	Plant filing fee	
1004	750	2004	375	Reissue filing fee	
1005	160	2005	80	Provisional filing fee	160.00
SUBTOTAL (1)		(\$)	160.00		

2. EXTRA CLAIM FEES FOR UTILITY AND REISSUE

Total Claims	Independent Claims	Extra Claims	Fee from below	Fee Paid
<input type="checkbox"/>				
<input type="checkbox"/>				
<input type="checkbox"/>				

Multiple Dependent

Large Entity	Small Entity	Fee Description	Fee Paid
Fee Code	Fee (\$)	Fee Code	Fee (\$)
1202	18	2202	9
1201	84	2201	42
1203	280	2203	140
1204	84	2204	42
1205	18	2205	9
SUBTOTAL (2)		(\$)	0.00

** or number previously paid, if greater. For Reissues, see above

FEE CALCULATION (continued)**3. ADDITIONAL FEES**

Large Entity	Small Entity	Fee Description	Fee Paid
Fee Code	Fee (\$)	Fee Code	Fee (\$)
1051	130	2051	65
1052	50	2052	25
1053	130	1053	130
1812	2,520	1812	2,520
1804	920*	1804	920*
1805	1,840*	1805	1,840*
1251	110	2251	55
1252	410	2252	205
1253	930	2253	465
1254	1,450	2254	725
1255	1,970	2255	985
1401	320	2401	160
1402	320	2402	160
1403	280	2403	140
1451	1,510	1451	1,510
1452	110	2452	55
1453	1,300	2453	650
1501	1,300	2501	650
1502	470	2502	235
1503	830	2503	315
1460	130	1460	130
1807	50	1807	50
1808	180	1808	180
8021	40	8021	40
1809	750	2809	375
1810	750	2810	375
1801	750	2801	375
1802	900	1802	900
Other fee (specify)			
*Reduced by Basic Filing Fee Paid		SUBTOTAL (3)	(\$)
			0.00

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Fee Transmittal

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Dated: May 30, 2003

Signature: *Julie A. Barber* (Julie A. Barber)

Application No. (if known):

Attorney Docket No.: 65961-0096

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Julie A. Barber

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Application Data Sheet

Application Data Sheet**Application Information**

Application Type::	Provisional
Subject Matter::	Utility
Suggested Group Art Unit::	N/A
CD-ROM or CD-R?::	None
Sequence submission?::	None
Computer Readable Form (CRF)?::	No
Title::	GARMENT HOOK ASSEMBLY
Attorney Docket Number::	65961-0096
Request for Early Publication?::	No
Request for Non-Publication?::	No
Total Drawing Sheets::	1
Small Entity?::	No
Petition included?::	No
Secrecy Order in Parent Appl.?::	No

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Correspondence Customer Number:: 10291

Representative Information

Representative Customer Number:: 10291

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Express Mail No.: EV078878105US

GARMENT HOOK ASSEMBLY

Technical Field

[0001] The present invention relates to an interior accessory for a vehicle and in particular to a garment hook on the rear door or liftgate of a vehicle.

Brief Description of the Drawings

[0002] The present invention will now be described, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

[0003] Figure 1 is a perspective view of the garment hook assembly in its lowered and raised position.

[0004] Figure 2 is a perspective view of the garment hook assembly in its lowered position within a sports utility vehicle.

[0005] Figure 3 is a side view of the garment hook assembly in its lowered position within a sports utility vehicle.

Description of the Preferred Embodiment

[0006] Referring to Figures 1 and 2, a garment hook assembly 10 is shown according to one embodiment of the present invention. The garment hook assembly 10 is positioned on a liftgate assembly 20 within a vehicle 12. The liftgate assembly 20 includes an inner panel 14 and an outer panel 16. The inner panel 14 of the liftgate assembly 20 has a recess 18 for housing the garment hook assembly 10.

[0007] As best seen in Figure 1, the garment hook assembly 10 comprises a hook portion 24 and a base portion 26. The hook portion 24 and the base portion 26 are located on opposite ends of the garment hook assembly 10. In the illustrated embodiment of the present invention, the hook portion 24 can be made from a metal material and the base portion 26 can be made from a plastic material. However, it can be appreciated that the garment hook assembly 10 can also be made of all metal or all plastic, depending on the desired objectives. For instance, an all plastic garment hook

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assembly 10 has the advantages of being a lighter weight than an all metal garment hook assembly 10. In addition, an all plastic garment hook assembly 10 may be manufactured simultaneously with the inner panel 14 of the liftgate assembly 20 in an injection molding process, resulting in lower manufacturing and assembly costs. On the other hand, an all metal garment hook assembly 10 has the advantage of being able to support a greater weight than an all plastic hook.

[0008] In one embodiment of the present invention, the base portion 26 of the garment hook assembly 10 is secured to the sheet metal of the vehicle (not shown). The base portion 26 may pass through the inner panel 14 of the liftgate assembly 20 and attach directly to the sheet metal of the vehicle 12 by any conventional method. In one example of a conventional method for attachment, the base portion 26 of the garment hook assembly 10 snap fits into an aperture (not shown) in the sheet metal of the vehicle 12. By directly attaching the base portion 26 of the garment hook assembly 10 to the sheet metal of the vehicle 12, the garment hook assembly 10 has enough support to hold a substantially greater amount of weight than conventional garment hooks.

[0009] Alternatively, the garment hook assembly 10 may be attached directly to the inner panel 14 of the liftgate assembly 20. If the garment hook assembly 10 is attached to the inner panel 14 of the liftgate assembly 20, the garment hook assembly 10 may be injection molded simultaneously with the inner panel 14 of the liftgate assembly or may be manufactured separately and attached as a secondary process. As with a metal base portion 26, a plastic base portion 26 of the garment hook assembly 10 may be secured to the inner panel 14 by snap fitting the plastic base portion 26 into an aperture in the inner panel 14 of the liftgate assembly 20.

[0010] In another embodiment of the present invention, the hook portion 24 of the garment hook assembly 10 extends to the sheet metal and directly attaches to the sheet metal of the vehicle 12. The base portion 26 of the garment hook assembly 10 acts as a cover over the hook portion 24, covering the bottom segment of the hook portion 24. The inner panel 14 of the liftgate assembly 20 has an aperture for the hook portion 24 of the garment hook assembly 10 to pass through. The hook portion 24 may also pass through the base portion 26 if the base portion 26 is integral with the

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inner panel 14 of the liftgate assembly 20. If the base portion 26 is separate from the inner panel 14, the base portion 26 is placed over the bottom segment of the hook portion 24 and attached to the inner panel 14 of the liftgate assembly 20.

[0011] The base portion 26 of the garment hook assembly 10 is pivotally attached to the vehicle 12. In the illustrated embodiment, the garment hook assembly 10 is pivotally attached within the recess 18 of the inner panel 14 of the vehicle 12. The pivotal attachment allows for the base portion 26 of the garment hook assembly 10 to automatically rotate between a raised position, as shown in phantom in Figure 1, and a lowered position when the liftgate assembly 20 is opened, as shown in Figure 2. When the garment hook assembly 10 is in the raised position, the garment hook assembly 10 rests within the recess 18 of the inner panel 14. The recess 18 has a shape that substantially corresponds to the shape of the garment hook assembly 10. The depth of the recess 18 is such that when the garment hook assembly 10 is raised, the garment hook assembly 10, with or without garments 30, is substantially flush with the inner panel 14 of the liftgate assembly 20. When the garment hook assembly 10 is in the lowered position, the hook portion 26 is accessible for hanging garments 30. Upon closing of the liftgate assembly 20, the garments 30 will be positioned completely within the vehicle 12, as best seen in Figure 3.

[0012] One aspect of the present invention is the automatic movement of the garment hook assembly 10 as the liftgate assembly 20 is opened and closed. The garment hook assembly 10 is pivoted within the recess 18 of the inner panel 14 such that the garment hook assembly 10 will automatically deploy to the lowered position upon opening of the liftgate assembly 20 and return to the raised position upon closing of the liftgate assembly 20. Therefore, the garment hook assembly 10 is visible and easily accessible when the liftgate assembly 20 is opened and will not obstruct the view of the driver when the liftgate assembly 20 is closed. In the illustrated embodiment of the present invention, the garment hook assembly 10 is pivotally attached at the left side of the recess 18. However, it can be appreciated that the garment hook assembly 10 can be positioned anywhere within recess 18 so long as the garment hook assembly 10 will automatically deploy to the lowered position upon

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opening of the liftgate assembly 20 and automatically return to the raised position upon closing of the liftgate assembly 20.

[0013] The garment hook assembly 10 of the present invention has many advantages over conventional garment hooks. For example, the garment hook assembly 10 can hold more garments, or a greater weight of garments, than conventional garment hooks. The hook portion 24 of the garment hook assembly 10 is easily accessible. In addition, a person standing outside the vehicle 12 is able to visually see the garment hook assembly 10. By contrast, conventional garment hooks are hidden to someone standing outside of the vehicle 12. Once the garments are secured by the garment hook assembly 10 and the liftgate assembly 20 is closed, the garments remain flush against the side of the vehicle 12 so the driver's field of view is not compromised.

[0014] In the illustrated embodiment, the garment hook assembly 10 is mounted to the liftgate assembly 20 for automatic deployment. However, it will be appreciated that the garment hook assembly 10 can be mounted to any location within the interior of the vehicle that will allow the automatic deployment of the garment hook assembly 10, such as a door, or the like. It can also be appreciated that the present invention may be practiced in any type of vehicle closure. For instance, the garment hook assembly 10 can be positioned on a front or rear door of the vehicle. Additionally, the size of the garment hook assembly 10 can vary depending on the desired objectives. A large garment hook assembly 10 may be desired if it is anticipated that the garment hook assembly 10 will be utilized for garments 30 that are heavy. In contrast, a small garment hook assembly 10 may be desired if it is anticipated that the garments 30 will be light in weight, or if there is limited space available in the vehicle, thereby limiting the amount of garments 30. Furthermore, the number of garment hook assemblies 10 can vary per vehicle 12. For example, a sedan may have two garment hook assemblies 10; one above the driver's side rear door and one above the passenger's side rear door. A SUV, for example, may have three or more garment hook assemblies 20; two small garment hook assemblies 20 above the rear doors and one or more large garment hook assemblies 20 on the liftgate 10 of the vehicle 12.

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[0015] It should be understood that the aforementioned and other various alternatives to the embodiments of the invention described herein may be employed in practicing the invention. It is intended that the following claims define the scope of the invention and that the method and apparatus within the scope of these claims and their equivalents be covered thereby.

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Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A garment hook assembly comprising:
a hook portion; and
a base portion pivotally mounted to an inner panel of a vehicle;
wherein said garment hook assembly is automatically deployed when
the inner panel is moved from a first position to a second position.
2. A garment hook assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said trim
panel is a liftgate of a vehicle.
3. A garment hook assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said hook
portion is capable of holding an object when said garment hook assembly is in
said lowered position.
4. A garment hook assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said hook
portion is made from a metal material.
5. A garment hook assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said hook
portion is made from a plastic material.
6. A garment hook assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said base
portion is made from a metal material.
7. A garment hook assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said base
portion is made from a plastic material.

FIRST NAMED INVENTOR: Steven M. Kowalski
TITLE: Garment Hook Assembly

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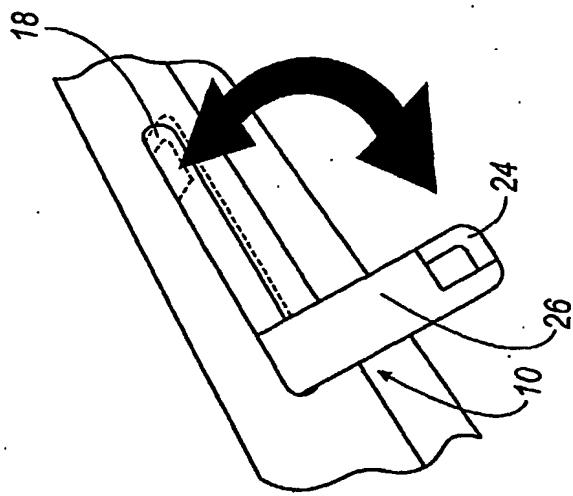


FIG. 1

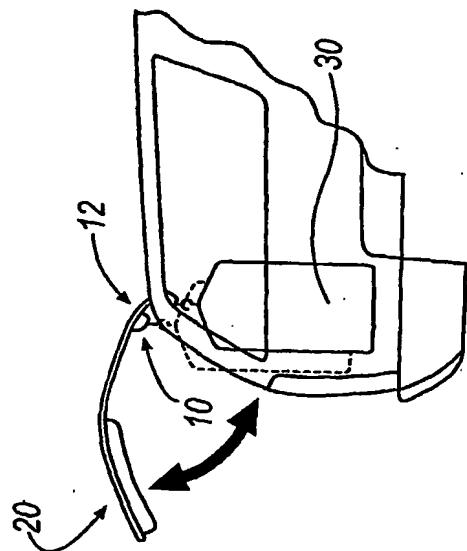


FIG. 3

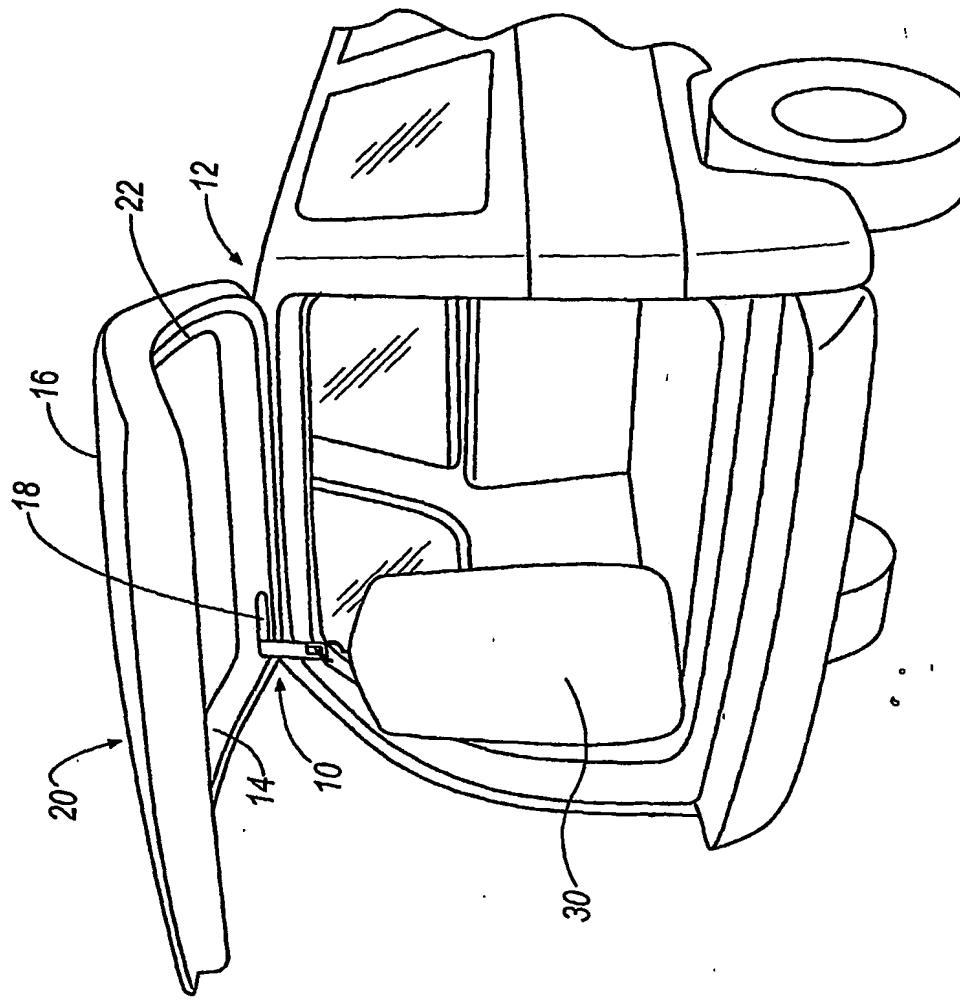


FIG. 2

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